

Empire on February 26, 1892, invited a number of eminent financiers and political economists to meet and consider the following questions:

1. What standard ought to be adopted when the currency is reformed ?
2. In case of the adoption of the gold standard, should a limited circulation of silver money be admitted and to what amount ?
3. Is the circulation of government notes advisable, bearing no interest, redeemable in legal money and not made a forced legal tender, and under what conditions ?
4. According to what principles should the conversion into gold of the existing florin be regulated ?
5. What monetary unit is it advisable to choose ?

The inquiry in Austria was entrusted to a commission of thirty-six persons, under the presidency of Herr Steinbach, the Minister of Finance, and the sittings continued from March 8th to March 14th. The inquiry in Hungary was made by a commission of twenty-one under the presidency of Herr Wekerle. The first question was answered by a large majority in favor of the gold standard. The second question led to a greater division of opinion, but the majority seemed disposed to favor as large a use of silver as was compatible with the absolute maintenance of the gold standard. The majority also favored the continuance of a circulation of 50,000,000 to 100,000,000 florins in government notes not fully covered by coin. A few believers in a strictly metallic currency opposed any such use of paper money, and argued that its continuance would shake confidence in the monetary system. The fifth question was answered in favor of the maintenance of the florin or its division into two parts, if a smaller unit were desired. The answer to the fourth involved the old controversy regarding the effects of the restoration of a metallic standard after business had been conducted and contracts made for many years on a depreciated paper basis. The definite answer to this and the other questions was finally given by the government, without following in all respects the recommendations of the commission.